

ABSTRACT
IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO SWITCHING DEVICES

Described herein is a method for making bandwidth allocation for data to be sent from a plurality of ingress forwarders or LICs (310, 312, 314, 316) to a plurality of egress forwarders or LICs (320, 322, 324, 326) across a routing device (330). The data may be unicast and/or multicast. The bandwidth allocation is calculated in accordance with ingress forwarder multicast queue occupancy for each ingress forwarder (312, 314, 316), the number of multicast cells received by egress forwarders (322, 324, 326) from the ingress forwarders in the last bandwidth allocation period, and the bandwidth allocated to non-real time multicast flows from ingress forwarders (310, 312, 314, 316) to egress forwarders (320, 322, 324, 326).

(Fig. 3)